

School Improvement Plans

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose of Report: To present for School Board approval the individual School Improvement Plans.

All schools in the District are submitting their School Improvement Plan to the Board for approval prior to submitting them to the State. Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the format for the individual School Improvement Plan will change slightly, with Plans coming due in the spring of 2020. The Plans, developed by a team of parents, community members and staff, serve as a roadmap for future planning and professional development and measure student achievement.

Each school has a building leadership team that meets regularly throughout the school year to guide the development, implementation, and evaluation of the School Improvement Plan. Building leadership teams divide the larger plan into similar smaller segments with the following focuses: staff roles, goals, meetings, summary, data, processes, priorities and strategies, and the professional development plan.

This document guides the work in order to meet the District's mission, priority statements from the Strategic Plan, and the achievement goals set by the South Dakota Department of Education.

Administrative Recommendation to School Board: Approve the individual School Improvement Plans.

School Improvement Plans Report

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District Priority Areas: Student Outcomes, School Climate & Culture, District Staff, and Community Engagement

District Priority Statement 1: SFSD will provide rigorous, effective, and engaging curriculum and instruction for all students to emphasize growth and reduce the achievement gap, with special focus on the following areas:

- a) Literacy, particularly in early years, to build a strong foundation for academic success across all grades;
- b) Maximizing time on instruction and learning;
- c) Differentiated and engaging pathways;
- d) Equitable access to highly effective programs;
- e) College readiness and/or career preparedness;
- f) Holding all schools to high expectations for students' social and emotional growth and development.

Priority Statement 2: SFSD will continue to foster an environment of high expectations combined with focused interventions and support in order to meet the learning needs of all students.

Priority Statement 3: SFSD will provide a nurturing and safe learning experience for all.

Priority Statement 4: SFSD will develop strategies to enhance a culturally responsive workforce.

Priority Statement 5: SFSD will develop strategies to enhance the quality and diversity of its workforce.

Priority Statement 6: SFSD will employ strategies to retain high quality staff.

Priority Statement 7: SFSD will support and train staff to encourage innovation and enable them to grow throughout their careers.

Priority Statement 8: SFSD will equip staff with knowledge and tools necessary to effectively engage families, partners, and the community to foster shared responsibility for student success.

Explanation:

School Improvement Plans are a requirement for school accreditation through the South Dakota Department of Education (SDDOE) as well as for accountability for Title I of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. The State requires that the Plan be developed with the input of parents, community and staff. The State further requires that the Plan be based upon an analysis of student performance and include a set of assessments to measure the degree of growth in student performance, a set of interventions selected to

cause student growth to occur, and a professional development plan to ensure that all faculty are equipped to implement the Plan.

Each school has a building leadership team that meets regularly throughout the year to guide the development, implementation, and evaluation of the School Improvement Plan. Building leadership teams track the work of school improvement on a template in Google Drive. The template breaks the school improvement process into the following pieces: staff roles, goals, meetings summary, data processes, priorities and strategies, and the professional development plan. The priorities and strategies developed in the plans are aligned with the priority statements from the District Strategic Plan. Beginning in January, four to six building principals will meet with Curriculum Services and Special Services on the first Wednesday of the month to review their school data related to academic growth and achievement and reflect on potential revisions to strategies to improve student learning.

This will be the last year the School Improvement Plans follow this format. Under the accountability plan developed for the Every Student Succeeds Act, the South Dakota Department of Education has outlined the requirements for School Success Action Plans. The process to develop the Action Plans will remain similar to the process for developing the School Improvement Plan: Establish a building leadership team, collect and organize data, analyze data, prioritize needs, and create a plan to address prioritized needs. The timeline will change slightly, with School Success Action Plans due in the spring of 2020.

Costs: Not Applicable.

Committee: Each school has a building leadership team consisting of the administrator and three or more teachers. These building leadership teams, along with other grade-level and content-alike teams, meet on a continual basis throughout the school year to examine data and adjust strategies and interventions.

Summary:

The Sioux Falls School District remains committed to continuous school improvement, and each school maintains a School Improvement Plan using an online template. The School Improvement Plans are focused on the District's mission, the priority statements from the strategic plan, and the targets set under the South Dakota Department of Education's accountability model.

Administrative Recommendation to School Board:

Approve the individual School Improvement Plans.